



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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Federal awards help create "Safe Routes to School"

Governor Jim Doyle has announced nearly \$4 million in awards to 47 Wisconsin communities that will encourage more school children to walk or bike to school. It represents the first round of federal awards distributed in Wisconsin through the Safe Routes to School program. The grants will fund bike and pedestrian education and enforcement, along with installation of bike racks, traffic circles and pedestrian islands. Wisconsin is scheduled to receive a total of nearly \$8 million through 2009 to fund similar projects. The next grant cycle begins in January of 2008. More information including a list of communities receiving awards can be found at:

http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_0287.html_786229440.html

It's hot enough to make pavement buckle

Hot summer weather causes problems for people, animals and machinery – and it can also be tough on roadways. WisDOT and county highway maintenance crews often respond to reports of pavement buckling in the extreme heat. The problem starts when dirt and other debris fills pavement joints, limiting the roadway's ability to expand. When hot temperatures cause pavement expansion, it can result in buckling. Motorists are asked to keep an eye out for damaged pavement sections and for road workers as they complete repairs.

Getting there in a roundabout way

With dozens of them already in operation in Wisconsin and over 150 more on the drafting table, motorists are encountering more roundabouts than ever before. Roundabouts are being installed within the state highway system and along municipal streets because they're safer and can reduce energy-wasting delays more common with traffic signals. But they take some getting used to. The key thing to remember is to yield to traffic already in the roundabout, merge smoothly, then exit to your right. More information on roundabouts can be found on the WisDOT Web site at: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/safety/motorist/roaddesign/roundabout.htm>.

Sharing best practices and cutting-edge research

The implementation of new transportation technologies and techniques can save time, money and even lives. Sometimes the greatest challenge to implementing best practices being successfully used elsewhere is having access to the proper information. The research section of the WisDOT Web site links federal, state and local government officials to some of the latest in transportation-related research. Current transportation research reports cover such topics as ways to reduce cracking and shrinkage in concrete structures, use of grass swales to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff, and methods to control roosting birds on transportation structures. More information can be found on the WisDOT Web site at:

<http://www.dot.wi.gov/library/research/reports/newreports.htm#tsr>.

Upcoming events

August 22 - 23: 33rd Annual Governor's Conference on Highway Safety, Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point

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